May 9, 2021 Announcements

Adult Education Hour - Taking Creation Seriously
Sundays, May 9th, 16th and 23rd, 10:45am - Fellowship Hall or Zoom

In this three week series led by John Hughes, we will explore what the Bible really says about God's creation—and it's not just one thing. We will also examine how faithful believers have struggled to find meaning in creation over the years. Finally, we will reflect on what creation might mean for us right now, in this time and place.

See the Friday Flash for the Zoom link.

Pentecost Offering
Through May 23rd

This Sunday we begin collecting the Pentecost offering, an annual church-wide Special Offering that raises money for children and youth. The next three Sunday's Pentecost Special Offering will be distributed in this manner:

- 40% will go toward WGPC Children's Ministry
- 25% will go to support Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteers
- 25% will support PCUSA Ministries with Youth such as the Presbyterian Youth Triennium
- 10% will go to help children at-risk to improve education and provide safe havens

Please use the envelopes provided at church during worship or go to wpgc.org/give to contribute. Select "PCUSA Special Offering" at the bottom of the drop down menu and type "Pentecost" in the optional memo/comment box.

Thank you for supporting the young people of our church and denomination!

Under God’s Big Top: A Creation Carnival
Sundays, June 27th & July 25th

Join us on the church parking lot for games, activities, crafts, food and puppet shows! All ages, families, and abilities welcome. Watch this space for more information!

Interested in helping out? Contact Pastor Hannah at hmd@wgpc.org

Social Justice Film Club
Wednesday, May 12th, 7:00pm on Zoom

Watch this month's Social Justice film, John Lewis: Good Trouble then join us for discussion on May 12th from 7:00-8:00pm on Zoom. The film is available on Amazon Prime.

See the Friday Flash for the Zoom link.
Congregational Art Project

*Thursday, May 13th, 10:00am-noon in the Church Kitchen*

You are invited to come and help make "Tongues of Fire" flames that will be used for our Pentecost service on May 23rd. We will be learning about and working with thermoplastic material, IDye Poly dyes and heat guns! Please RSVP to Shawn Portell, spp@wgpc.org if you plan to attend a session.

Music in a Great Place: Fox Creek Band

*Sunday, May 16th - 9:30am Worship Service*

From Bluegrass to Beatles, to Southern Rock and Motown, there isn’t anything the Fox Creek band hasn’t played during the 20 years since the group's inception.

Fox Creek started as a traditional bluegrass band, but the journey down those back roads took the band to new places and Steve O’Connell, a founding member of the group, just keeps taking new turns.

New band members have also come in. The latest configuration of Fox Creek includes O’Connell on guitar and vocals, long-time member Dan Horner on banjo, Joe Rapisardo on mandolin, harmonica and vocals, and Tracey Rapisardo on upright bass and vocals.

O’Connell, leader of the band, has played with several groups that have brought home honors including the Illinois Country Music Association’s Bluegrass Band of the Year for the Rosa String Works Band, and for gospel singing.

Dan Horner learned banjo while in high school from his schoolmate, the legendary John Hartford, (the songwriter of “Gentle On My Mind”). Horner has played in Gaslight Square and in bands in St. Louis, Cuba/Rolla, and while living in central Tennessee.

Joe Rapisardo started his own bluegrass band, Countryside Grass, in 1983 and played a four-state region for the next eight years. After that, he played 14 years with Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers.

Tracey Rapisardo came late to playing music but is making up for it now. A lover of the blues, she brings a deeper blue to bluegrass.

Each have their own unique roots in music, but they all come together to find the place where voices blend in harmony which is really the heart of bluegrass.

Pulled together and polished by Bill Monroe of the Kentucky Bluegrass Boys, American musical traditions weave themselves into a tapestry in bluegrass, from the string bands of Irish, Scottish and English immigrants, the rhythms and banjos of black slaves, the dark, tragic stories of coalminers, the hard scrabble life of mountain farmers, and the thread of the gospel that gave them all hope.
Let’s Be Happy Party!

Sunday, May 23rd, 4:00-6:00pm - Church Parking Lot

The Gathering Task Force invites you, your family and friends for a fun afternoon of fellowship!

- Live Music by Tracey Rapisardo and The Big River Trio
- Family Games and Special Beverages
- Bring your lawn chairs (extra chairs will be available), family and friends

It will be helpful to have your RSVP and fun song request. Visit wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links

Masks are required and social distancing guidelines will be followed. The parking lot will be closed to cars; parking will be available in the Moody lot and bank parking lots.

Matthew 25 Fellowship

Interested in putting your faith into action? Know any high school students committed to justice?

Apply for the 2021 Matthew 25 Fellowship! This collaboration between Ladue Chapel and WGPC provides a paid opportunity for three high school students (rising juniors through recent graduates) from each congregation to spend the summer learning about inequities here in St. Louis, meeting the people and agencies working to address those needs, and engaging in that work themselves.

With an overarching Matthew 25 focus, each week of the 6 week fellowship will have a specific focus, and together we will unpack different areas of inequity, weaving in the intersectionality of each subject that adds to the overall disparities that lead to poverty.

What’s Matthew 25?

**Matthew 25 congregations are committed to:**

- Building congregational vitality
- Dismantling structural racism
- Eradicating systemic poverty

You can find the application and more information at laduechapel.org/matthew-25-fellowship

Questions? Contact Pastor Hannah at hmd@wgpc.org
Freestyle Pool Pass Donations

Webster Groves is a great place to live, work, and play—and our community is striving to be consciously inclusive. To this end, the Alliance for Interracial Dignity, Webster Groves School District, and Webster Rock Hill Ministries have joined forces to create the new Freestyle Pool Pass. The Freestyle Pass will remove barriers to the community swimming pool by providing free daily swim passes for individuals and families that require financial assistance.

Webster Groves Presbyterian Church is supporting this initiative with a gift of $1,000, funded through the Mission Endowment Fund and the Gibbs Fund to Promote Racial Harmony and Justice. If you would like to contribute individually, you can do so this week by check made payable to Webster Rock Hill Ministries and mailed or brought to 111 East Waymire, Webster Groves, 63119. Checks must include “Freestyle Pass Fund” in the memo line. You may also donate online, see the link on wgpc.org/get-involved.

Questions? Message freestyleswimpass@gmail.com.

Chancel Flowers

Would you like to provide Chancel flowers for a Sunday service? It's easy! One phone call to your favorite florist is all it takes! Contact Gay Moppert for more information: 314-324-5313 or mopfam@aol.com. The flowers beautify our service, then are deconstructed and delivered to our members in hospitals, nursing homes, etc. to brighten their day. Win-win!!

New Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-3:00pm

If you need to be in touch with a staff person for any reason, please note the new church office hours are Monday-Thursday from 9:00am-3:00pm. It's always a good idea to call ahead to the person you need to speak with to be sure they will be available. For urgent and emergency matters, call a pastor at any time using their cell phone number.